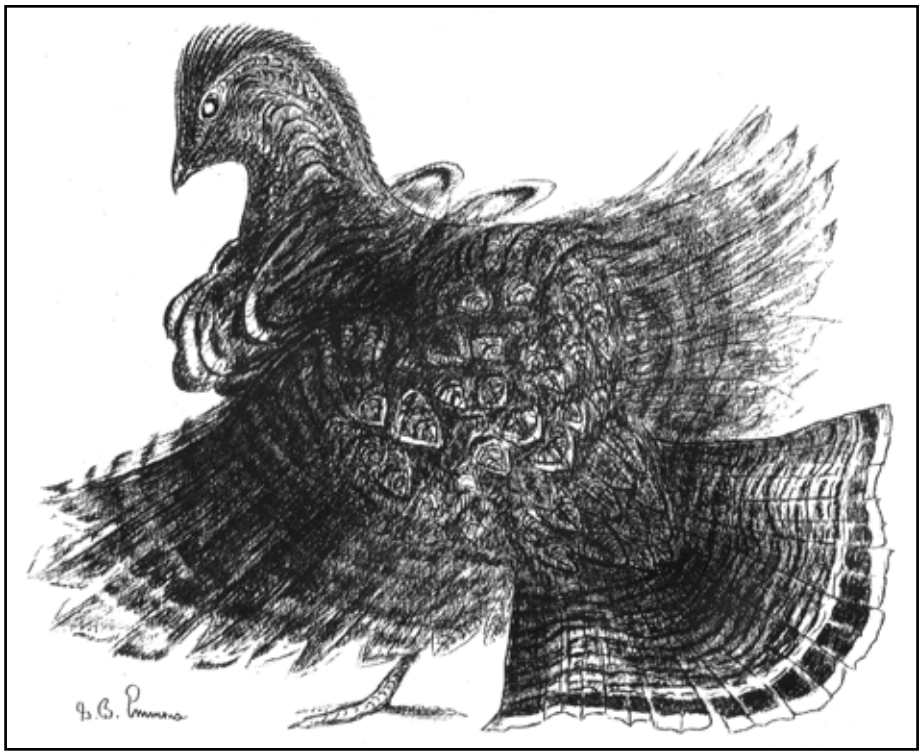
MONTEREY NEWS

December 2016

Est. 1970 Vol. XLVI · Number 12



"*The Twelve Days of Christmas*" *was, long ago, a children's game involving kisses and sweets, with the refrain ending, "and a partridge in a pear tree." The ruffed grouse (note the ring of feathers around its neck) is true to the lyrics.* *See page 12.*

Most importantly, I hope you feel you can freely speak if you so choose, vote your conscience, and be counted.
Town Meeting Voting Page 14–15

Join us when we celebrate the letter of thanks from the state for saving the tax payers well over $1 million!
Monterey's Bridges Page 5

Upon the recommendation of the fire chief, the select board determined that the lake will indeed be drawn down this season.
LGWG Page 20-21

Then the song is over, but that honey is a part of me now. No longer desperate hope, no spun-sugar escapist fantasy, it's experience now. There's honey in the tree of life.
Solstice Flute Song Page 18

The accountant sits, his numbers behind him, like a wall
and dreams probably about
skyrocketing off the table.
The Accountant Page 13

I'm not on the fence anymore. I want—no, I'm going—to be the change.
Asano Park Page 8

She believes in the life of the spirit, and as if to prove it, her radiance is always there.
Nanette Hucknall Page 7

We are in a better position than we have been in the past!
Monterey Broadband Page 4

New Swap Shop Manager Page 22

Community Center Trims Page 6

In My View Page 2

Christmas music is already upon us. Let's hope that holiday cheer can serve to keep us going for a time.
Mourning in America Page 9

Delmar Tryon, Monterey 'Shot' By Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Unit

Movie-making tragedy? Page 19

Council activity for 2017 includes luncheons, museum visits, garden tours, a ball game, and exercise opportunities.
Council on Aging Page 3

In My View
New Town Administrator

My original idea for this column was to highlight the challenges that we, as town residents, are facing with regard to the reuse of two of our precious town properties—our one-room school house and the nearly finished community center. These are important assets for Monterey, and it is going to take some collective and creative thinking if we are going to return them to active use.

For the time being, if anyone has ideas for these structures, please contact me at Steve@MontereyMA.gov.

I have changed my focus to a new development at town hall. On Monday, November 14, the select board changed the way government works in Monterey. We hired a town administrator, Mr. Willie Morales.

This position, appointed by the select board, is to direct and administer the day-to-day operations of the town. These operations include human resources, policy implementation, procurement, and making recommendations to the board on policy and procedures.

As you may or may not know, the job of a select board member has become more and more complex and time consuming. The myriad state rules and regulations, and the need to be fully versed on every aspect of the town, makes it difficult for board members to stay active and informed without a commitment of twenty-plus hours per week.

To meet these demands, many towns in Massachusetts have hired town administrators. This route was suggested by the Monterey Town Hall Structure Committee and the Massachusetts Department of Local Services (DLS). I had the privilege of sitting on the structure committee, and being interviewed for the DLS report, and yet I was still skeptical about the introduction of another layer of government for a small town like Monterey.

My early concerns about hiring a town administrator were based on notions that "Monterey needs a town administrator, because other towns have one," and "A town administrator will fix all of Monterey's problems." Both of these ideas were expressed to me and, quite frankly, I found them troubling. I objected to the idea of hiring a person in a position of great influence, while regarding them as just a temporary "placeholder" for a better candidate who may appear at a later date (an inference from the DLS report).

Skepticism aside, the majority of the board and the townspeople thought that this was a good idea, so I reserved my opinion.

The select board wrote a job description and formed a town administrator resumé review committee. This committee was made of Monterey residents from all aspects of town life (Ray Tryon, Rob Hoogs, Roy Carwile, Jon Sylbert, and Kelly Tryon).

The committee worked diligently to craft insightful questions for the candidates based on the job description. The net result of the process was a recommendation of one candidate, Mr. Moralez.

It has been only one week, but I can say that I am very pleased with our new town administrator. Willie (as he wishes to be addressed) seems to be a skilled, articulate, and knowledgeable person. He apparently understands that Monterey is a small town with big town challenges. (He is also a part-time town administrator for Sandisfield.) I have also been impressed with his willingness to work with our select board and administrative assistant to redefine these positions.

It will take some time to determine the true value of having a town administrator, and one week is certainly not long enough to judge the position holder, however I am willing to state that it appears that our new town administrator, Willie, is working out just fine.

—Steven Weisz
Monterey Select Board

Willie Morales will hold regular business hours on Wednesdays and Fridays at town hall. He can be reached at TownAdmin@montereyma.gov.

Editor's Note: In My View *is a monthly feature for this paper. It provides the individual select board members an opportunity, on a rotating basis, to communicate their thoughts about town affairs—reflections, opinions, and updates on topics of their choice. The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

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Town Clerk News
Monterey Election Results

Elections

President
- Clinton: 417, statewide 60.8%
- Johnson: 20, statewide 4.2%
- Stein: 12, statewide 1.5%
- Trump: 88, statewide 33.5%

Representative in Congress
- Neal: 406
- Mayock: 71
- Simmons: 39
  (District-wide 73% for Neal)

Governor's Council
- Hurley: 446 (unopposed)

State Senate
- Hinds: 401
- Canning: 125
  (District-wide 70% for Hinds)

State Representative
- Pignatelli: 501 (unopposed)

Sheriff
- Bowler: 461 (unopposed)

S. Berkshire Regional School District
- Egremont, Marcella Bush: 378 (unopposed)
- Monterey, Maryellen Brown: 421 (unopposed)
- New Marlborough, David Travis: 364 (unopposed)
- Sheffield, voting for three seats:
  Arthur Batacchi: 264
  Robert Law: 184
  Stephen Leining: 128

State Ballot Initiatives

Question 1: Expand Slot Machine Gaming
- Yes: 112
- No: 410
- Statewide 61% voted no

Question 2: Expand Charter Schools
- Yes: 187
- No: 339
- Statewide 62% voted no

Question 3: Improve Farm Animal Confines
- Yes: 434
- No: 101
- Statewide 77% voted yes

Question 4: Legalize Marijuana
- Yes: 330
- No: 192
- Statewide 54% voted yes.

Post-Election Audit

In 2014, Chapter 54, Section 109a of the Massachusetts General Laws was enacted, which requires post-election audits after any federal or statewide elections involving more than one candidate to an office, or with statewide ballot questions. The law requires 3% of all precincts be audited. Monterey constitutes only one precinct. Under this law, 66 of 351 towns were chosen, including Monterey. The random selection of precincts was held on November 10 in Boston. The audit began on Tuesday, November 15. The secretary of state appointed Monterey Town Clerk Terry Walker to conduct the audit. A hand count of all 554 ballots (out of 657 eligible voters) was conducted, representing 84% of eligible voters.

Absentee Voters

As of December 31, 2016, the list of absentee voters will be deleted from the state computer. If you plan to request an absentee ballot application for all elections during 2017, you must contact the town clerk for an application. Absentee ballot applications are only valid for one year. Once the town clerk receives your application, your name will be entered in the state computer and an absentee ballot will be mailed to you for each election.

—Terry Walker
Monterey Town Clerk

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Council on Aging
Join Us

Council on Aging meetings are on the second and fourth Mondays of most months (excluding December 26) at 10 a.m., in town hall. Add your voice and bring your concerns, wishes, and ideas to a meeting. Some of our goals include expanding our knowledge of services, sharing interests and skills, and, ways to assist neighbors to stay healthy and have fun. If these strike a chord, join us.

Council activity ideas for 2017 include luncheons, museum visits, meeting service providers, garden tours, visits by health professionals, a ball game, and exercise opportunities.

Fall Prevention and Balance

Classes are at the town hall from 1 to 3 p.m., for eight Wednesdays, starting on January 4, 2017. This discussion and exercise program is organized by Berkshire Health Systems and has had positive results. The exercises are not strenuous, with some sitting and some standing behind a chair. The classes are free. Register by calling 445-9232.

Please join us, the more the merrier.

Contact Kay Purcell at 528-9151, or email wpurcell@bcn.net, with questions or comments.

—Kay Purcell
Monterey Council on Aging

Monterey Broadband Committee Update

We are in a better position than we have been in the past!

Mass Technology Council released their Request For Proposal (RFP) on Friday, November 18. Responses are due back to MassTech by this January 11. The responses will provide a clearer indication of solutions, providers, and business models that may affect both the town and broadband subscribers.

This RFP is but one of three paths that the broadband committee is aggressively pursuing in order to get a recommendation to the select board.

That being said, this is still a very complex undertaking with many moving parts…especially when we are actively talking with public companies, private companies, and the state's various organizations.

The Monterey Broadband Committee (BJ Johnson (also on the finance committee), Steve Weisz (also on the select board), and Cliff Weiss) is working to identify the best set of options for a broadband solution (up to 1 gigabit/sec). Our charter is to recommend to the select board an option or options that meet the needs of the entire town. To that end, we continue to talk with numerous potential providers, state organizations, and a collection of adjacent towns to identify, develop, and narrow down potential solutions. The Commonwealth, through MBI and its parent MassTech, established a set of criteria for receiving monies made available during the Patrick administration, which was subsequently stalled by the change in focus from Wired West, and recently revitalized by the Baker administration. One of the requirements to receive state monies is to provide service to a minimum of 96% of the town's premises.

As you know, Monterey and most of the Berkshires is part of forty-plus towns in Massachusetts that have been neglected by traditional providers, primarily due to lack of population density, topography, distance between dwellings, and the associated costs and poor profit opportunity. Technologies and costs have changed enough over time such that providers are expressing more interest in servicing our towns, especially with the availability of state monies. We are also at the point where broadband is viewed as essential as electricity service. Additionally, many local home owners have had difficulty finding buyers due to unavailable broadband, and slower DSL.

The broadband committee is currently following at least three paths to get to a solution it can recommend.

First, the state, through MBI, issued a new bid request on November 18 in support of the forty-plus towns. This request outlines the needs of each of these towns but does not require respondents to provide one solution for the entire group of towns. We'll know more when the responses are returned to the state in January.

Second, we are working with adjacent towns on a parallel bid request. The format of this request has received an initial positive legal opinion from the attorney general's office, which should minimize or eliminate the potential for a state rejection or a vendor protest on legal or other grounds.

Third, we are in direct discussions with providers (public companies and private companies) to determine their interest, ability, and appetite for delivery of broadband services to all of Monterey.

Again, our goal is to identify the optimal solution for the entire town of Monterey. Decision criteria include (but are not limited to):

Services offered (basic and optional services);

- Costs to the subscribers for services and installation;
- Cost to the town;
- Obtaining any and all state/federal monies available;
- Time to deploy;
- Minimal impact, if any, on tax rates and borrowing.

Please feel free to contact us directly at broadband@montereyma.govwith questions.

—Monterey Broadband Committee

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Monterey's Small Bridges
One Year Later...

It was a year ago that we completed the New Marlborough Road bridge project. Part of that project included renting and installing a temporary bridge while we figured out how to get a permanent solution completed. In keeping with a thinking-outside-the-box mindset, as we approached a permanent solution we creatively decided to purchase and keep the temporary bridge and use it to replace the failing bridge at the bottom of the Wellman Road. Wellman Road is a seasonal road (closed during the winter months to through traffic). It serves three dwelling units and is used as a cut-through between New Marlborough Road and Gould Road. The estimated cost of replacing this bridge was $500,000 to $600,000, and because it was under twenty feet, it would have been the town's responsibility to fund the the replacement.

These two bridge projects represent the dilemma that small towns throughout the state find themselves in. If the bridge is over twenty feet, a town can apply for funds through a number of state programs that combine federal funds with state funds and will eventually cover the entire cost of repair or replacement. The problem, as our neighbors in New Marlborough have discovered, is the program is set up so that you apply when a bridge fails (New Marlborough has had two bridges closed for over two years and three weight-restricted to one lane). There are so many bridges failing or in need of repair that the state has lost the ability to plan ahead and bridges are placed in a queue that takes the worst first. New Marlborough discovered that even though a town has made it to the top, it can get pushed back down when a bridge on a highly traveled road is considered more at risk. The other problematic part of the equation is the policy of not using temporary bridges as a regular part of the DOT's bridge program.

Steven Weisz

The Wellman Road bridge was replaced using the "temporary" bridge purchased for the New Marlborough Road bridge last year. The town even salvaged the concrete abutments to be reinstalled as well.

Along comes Monterey. As everyone should know by now, we took control of the process, declared a town emergency, got all the town boards on the same page, and simply said, "Our bridge, our road, our money, our decision." In November our town highway crew, assisted by Tryon Construction, completed the installation of the "temporary" bridge, which we purchased for $25,000, as our permanent solution on Wellman Road. The total cost to the town for this bridge solution is $52,000, once again beating the DOT estimate. The total cost to the town of the two bridge projects came in at just over $200,000, beating the estimated $1.5 to 2 million "realistic" estimate from the DOT and the engineering firms they wanted us to use. (I can't resist—the DOT told us that by using one of the three firms they recommended we would save money in the end!)

So check out the two bridges, and join us when we celebrate the letter of thanks from the state for saving the tax payers well over $1 million!

—Kenn Basler,
Chair, Monterey Select Board

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Monterey Library Notes

A great time was had by all who made it to Ed the Wizard on Halloween. He got the kids in the mood for trick-or-treating. A huge thank you to the parks commission for coming up with the money to sponsor that program.

For those who are wondering about our schedule during the holidays, check our website, MontereyMassLibrary.org. We will be open Saturday, December 24, from 9:30-12:30 in the morning as usual, but will be closed on that evening. That holds true for New Year's Eve as well.

Here is the update on our proposed construction project. The town meeting approved the schematic design by Tim Eagles and EDM Associates and also approved the library trustees applying for the construction grant. Thank you very much for your support.

So now the library director, EDM, and P3 (the project manager) are feverishly putting the finishing touches on a grant for the construction project that could be worth close to $2 million. Many of you have helped in this process, whether it was voting for it at the special town meeting, filling out a survey, attending a forum, or being a loyal library user who has supported our services over the years.

One more way in which you can help is to join the Friends of the Monterey Library or, even without joining, just make a donation to their building fund. Part of the application requires showing that the library has town support. The votes show that, but there is also a place in the form where we list how we plan to come up with our share of the rest of the construction cost. One line is simply how much money we have in hand. Not just pledged, but in hand. We have had several donations, and quietly we have reached almost $10,000. Our goal is to have $50,000 by January 10 to be able to include that nice number in our application. That is a long way from the over $1 million we'll need to raise, but it shows the grant reviewers that there are people who want this project to happen and believe in it.

There are two areas in this project for which the grant cannot be used. One is landscaping and the other is furniture. It is possible we could get private donations for the balance of the project, but that is a lot of money to raise. If we can also get enough to landscape the finished project and buy the furniture that this project deserves, we will have put the icing on the cake.

Please consider a donation—any amount is welcome. The Friends are a 501(c3) organization, so you will get a tax deduction for the full amount. You can go online to our website and click on the Friends page and donate online. For the library to get the full amount of your money without the credit card charge, you can drop a check made out to the Friends of the Monterey Library or mail it to the Friends of the Monterey Library, PO Box 172 Monterey MA 01245. Thanks again for your support!

—Mark Makuc
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Monterey Community Center News

The interior of the center is taking shape—window and door trim, trim around the stairway and along the margins between the over two-hundred-plus-years-old hand-hewn beams and the twenty-first century sheetrock. The beaded casings for windows and doors made of clear white pine milled and assembled by Steve Moore are fabulous—suddenly the room looks tidy and real.

Joe Baker

Mike Banner nails on a new door casing.

At this stage, there are myriad small details and only a few larger remaining projects, such as laying down the prefinished red oak flooring. Work is progressing almost daily by volunteer hands, and we know you will all be pleased with the look and feel of your community center.

Thank you for your support. It will be nip and tuck in the race between our bank account and the remaining expenses, which means we will be most grateful for additional donations.

—Friends of the Wilson-McLaughlin House
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Hannah Fries Book Launch

Sandisfield poet (and *Monterey News* copy editor) Hannah Fries's first collection of poems, *Little Terrarium*, has just been published by Amherst-based publisher Hedgerow Books of Leveller's Press.

Hannah kicked off the publication with a well-attended reading in November at the Emily Dickinson Museum in Amherst. Her Berkshire book launch will be held on December 9, at 5:30 p.m., at The Bookstore in Lenox, with a reception and music by the Easy Ridin' Papas.

Fries's poems are "acutely alive to the physical world in all its varied, gorgeous, and vulnerable incarnations," according to poet Ellen Bass. The title *Little Terrarium* refers to the body that holds the soul, and the world that holds all creatures—from the complexity of human consciousness to the five pulsing hearts of night crawlers. Where else might we find a woman provocatively stripping from a lobster suit; the voice of Mary, refusing her pedestal in her most human voice; a houseplant speaking for itself from a dark closet; Noah's wife salvaging burrs from the ark's bears; or the mustard seed, hushed and waiting in its cold vault for Doomsday. Whether writing about a midnight baker, or a species of spiders harnessed to spin steely gold thread, Fries holds the whole world, her little terrarium, in her hands.

To order a copy, go to levellerspress.com, or ask your local bookstore.

Community Potluck Dec. 21

We had a great time at the November potluck, with Steve Pullen telling the story of his grandparents coming from Britain to America as British servants, working for some of the wealthiest people of the time, and about his grandfather caring for a prize-winning racehorse, Uhlan. Steve's father grew up in Lee and Lenox, on the Westinghouse estate, what is now Foxhollow Resort, playing with the Vanderbilt children. It was great fun to listen to his story, and Steve made it absolutely fascinating.

For December, we have our own Nanette Hucknall, just back from a whirlwind book tour, including television spots in San Diego, Portland, Phoenix, Albuquerque, and Memphis, ending in Boston. She will talk about her newest book, *How to Live from Your Heart*. Nanette is the founder of Higher Self Yoga and the co-founder of the Center for Peace through Culture, which many of you may know is the sponsor of the Railroad Street Youth Project. (See Pat Salomon's letter in the right column.)

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse on Wednesday, December 21, at 6 p.m. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Kyle Pierce

P.O. Box 9

Nanette Hucknall

We are familiar to each other living here in Monterey. But just as nature brings us surprising gifts, the people around us can be extraordinary. Nanette Hucknall, a Monterey resident for more than twenty-five years, recently published her fifth book, *How to Live from Your Heart*. At age eighty-four, she's a recognized author, who is also a therapist, a teacher, and a gifted painter. She's a whirlwind. At the moment she's busy crisscrossing the country for television and radio interviews, often several interviews a day.

Nanette lives in a beautiful home on Lake Garfield. In her earliest years here, Nanette was preoccupied with her battle with cancer. Perhaps her success in that struggle was what opened her life to so many deep and passionate pursuits. Her full life is clearly reflected in her personal style. Somehow she always looks great.

She believes in the life of the spirit, and as if to prove it, her radiance is always there. If you see her at the post office or the library, be sure to stop and ask her about life's mysteries. You can purchase her newest book or any of her past ones on Amazon.

—Pat Salomon

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What is your Asano Park?

Like many of my fellow American parents, I imagine, I'm mortified that my six, eight, and ten-year-olds's memories will not be permitted to wipe themselves clean of any pre-November 8th, Donald Trumpian traces. Normally unparanoid, I woke up at 3 a.m. on November 9 to check the news on my phone, and became so disoriented by what I read that I instinctively checked that the front and back doors to my house were locked. I felt sure that I should be on the lookout for an invading army. I had the distinct thought, "Is this still my house?"

I was not alone, of course. One friend's son asked the morning after if he was still allowed to play outside. I know people who have been taunted by Trump supporters. My fellow grad school student received this message on her Instagram feed, "Ur kids gong [sic] be sent back to Mexico now bitch." A teacher's friend, a Muslim student, received this charming message: "Looks like it's time to go back to Pakistan, sand n——s!" My son, knowing what Trump thinks of disabled people, and having a four-year-old cousin with down syndrome, asked, "Is he going to take Patrick away, Mommy?" These are all logical, reasonable responses to the news that a hatemongerer had transformed overnight into the most powerful man in the world. (Are there any Trump voters who are surprised by those reactions?)

In the hours after dropping the kids at the bus stop, I went through my own version of the grief stages: forgot to eat breakfast, wept in the shower, distractedly drove in the wrong direction, glared at the cheerful man passing by me on the street, assuming he was one of "them."

But then, in between the grieving and a solemn promise not to allow the voice of T- Rump (vastly more destructive cousin to the T-Rex) to invade my life for the next four years, hope emerged, and a certain clarity. I felt energized, focused, like I'd just thrown out a big pile of garbage that I'd been avoiding for years.

I've always thought of myself as living by Gandhi's challenge, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world." How poorly I've been living up to that challenge! If he is *this*, I must be *that*, and how much time and energy I've spent on the fence between *this* and *that*!

We all have our own inner Trump, don't we? The urge, in a crowded room, to yell at a disruptive person, "Throw him outta here!" The instinct, indulged all too often, to critique people based on their size or appearance because it makes you feel like the thinner and prettier woman, exclude them because it makes you feel like the bigger girl, dismiss them out of hand based on the way they speak because it makes you feel smarter. The Trumpian voice that says, "I've got mine, so sleep tight."

I'm not on the fence anymore. I want—no, I'm going—to be the change, and it does start with me, with recognizing the ways I critique, exclude, and dismiss. But first things first; let's get together.

I'm working on an MFA in writing, and just recently completed my critical

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thesis on John Hersey's *Hiroshima*, his nonfiction account of six survivors' stories. (It's a beautiful tribute to humanity in any era.) This is the *Hiroshima* passage that feels relevant to our current situation. After the bomb was dropped and the dust had settled a bit, the survivors tried to get their bearings, and headed in the same direction.

All day, people poured into Asano Park. This private estate was far enough away from the explosion that its bamboos, pines, laurel, and maples were still alive, and the green place invited refugees—partly because they believed that if the Americans came back, they would bomb only buildings; partly because the foliage seemed a center of coolness and life, and the estate's exquisitely precise rock gardens, with their quiet pools and arching bridges, were very Japanese, normal, secure; and also partly (according to some who were there) because of an irresistible, atavistic urge to hide under leaves.

The green place invites refugees. Yes, doesn't it? I just saw a sweet, hopeful photo taken in the quiet woods in Chappaqua, New York, of a mom with her baby on her back embracing Hillary Clinton, whom she'd run into in a clearing. A forest feels like a good place for us to gather now, and we are so fortunate here to have them handy, though they need not be literal forests.

We each have our own Asano Parks. Mine are Fuel Coffee Shop in Great Barrington, Monument Mountain, the Green River in North Egremont, the women's circle started by Maia Conty. What are yours? Let's all head out for a hug and a cry. We need to show them what the opposite of a bully looks like.

—Sheela Clary

Mourning in America

Did the defeat of Grover Cleveland in 1888 (he was then the president) occasion such distress as tens of millions of Americans are experiencing now? (Unlikely. And remember, he was elected once again in 1892). Children are crying, parents are beside themselves, minorities feel vulnerable, and the undocumented sense they are exposed and unprotected. And consider what the rest of the world must be thinking.

Americans, we're told, are nothing if not resilient. So, get up off the floor, dust yourself off and consider the following spirit boosters. Consolation can come in different forms. Feel free to choose whatever works best for you.

- In just two years the next presidential campaign will be getting underway. It's just around the corner.
- The pollsters set us up. They're to blame. Maybe in the future they'll add lawn-sign-density to their calculations.
- Hillary is steadily pulling ahead in the popular vote. What mandate?
- Hitler was just 44 when he became German chancellor. Trump is over 70. How much time is left?
- Putin's Russia is hardly Communist. Long-standing fears of a "Red Menace" are unwarranted. And we've long been comfortable with foreign dictators.
- Marginal and discredited retreads will end up in a Trump administration. Few, if any, A-list types will apply. Get the message!
- Then, too, Canada is exceptionally spacious and underpopulated.
- Pendulums swing both ways. It's just a matter of time.
- Republicans would lose much of the time if they didn't cheat (voter suppression, PAC $ flows, partisan redistricting, etc.).
- Thank God for Federalism. Blue states will be our protective mantle. (Watch for migration into those areas.)
- Now that the election has concluded, maybe the NFL can recapture the audience it had lost.
- Bernie's battalions can be mobilized when the moment is right.
- What's wrong with keeping the Supreme Court at eight members? Over the years we've been at six, seven, nine, and ten. Surely the time to try eight is now.
- Senator Chuck Schumer can use all his experience to combat Republican extremism. Then, too, Bernie is back, as is Elizabeth Warren. A "liberated" Barack Obama could make a difference as well. Michelle?
- "Just kidding," Donald John Trump.
- Trump campaigned in harsh prose. A touch of poetry would serve us all well, now that he prepares to become president.
- Christmas music is already upon us. Let's hope that holiday cheer can serve to keep us going for a time.
- "I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of president of the United States and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the *Constitution of the United States*."

—Richard Skolnik

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December at the Knox Gallery

Please join us for the opening of our traditional winter community exhibit at Knox Gallery. *Between the Lines* will open with a reception Saturday evening, December 3, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. We look forward to a fun evening with all of you. Don't miss seeing the diverse and stimulating group of pieces that express many interpretations of the theme, represent a range of mediums, and are a reflection of our community. The exhibit will run until January 14, 2017.

November was an active month at the Knox Gallery. Monterey resident and writer Mary Kate Jordan read from her current manuscript, for which the working title is *Honey in the Tree of Life*, on November 4. The reading was a treat for all who attended. Attendees listened deeply, asked great questions, enjoyed the visuals, laughed, ate cookies, drank cider, and said they wanted to stay longer when 7:30 arrived. Quite a success!

On November 19, the three exhibiting artists—Mark Olshansky, Peggy Reeves, and Geoffrey Young—presented *Process & Reality: The Artists Discuss Their Work*, a forum to address common questions asked by museum- and gallery-goers, such as, "What am I looking at?" Of course, the answers raised were spurred on by additional questions from, and discussion with, our engaged attendees. We are fortunate to have opportunities for lively discussion and exposure to new material.

Maureen Banner

Mark Olshansky (above center) explains his design process during the Process & Reality *artist talk on November 19. He was joined by Peggy Reeves (left) and Geoffrey Young (right).*

Marc Simmons is between the lines as The Accountant. *See his poem on page 13.*

Knox Gallery would not be the lively Monterey arts center that it has become without the Monterey Library Board of Trustees, the Friends of the Monterey Library, which support the Knox Gallery, and all the volunteers who help us get the work done. The holiday season reminds us to acknowledge all of you. We likewise appreciate the Massachusetts and Monterey Cultural Councils, which underwrite our artists talks. And thank you, artists, for participating. We especially commend our fabulous library director, Mark Makuc, who has enthusiastically supported this venture from its inception, and the entire library staff. Most of all we appreciate the community of Monterey, and our loyal attendees of openings and artists' talks, who look forward to our presentations.

Please consider buying artwork for your holiday gifts. We are ever grateful to purchasers of artwork, as proceeds from sales encourage high-caliber artists to show at the Knox, and 25% of the invoiced price supports the library's programs. Please also consider the Friends of the Library at your year-end gift-giving time. Your support keeps our library, our programs, and the gallery going.

We look forward to seeing you all at the opening this week, and your engagement with our many exciting programs planned for 2017.

All Knox Gallery events are free admission. Exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 528-3795; MontereyMassLibrary.org/Knox-Gallery; @Knox_Gallery on Twitter; Facebook.com/KnoxGallery.

—MaryPaul Yates

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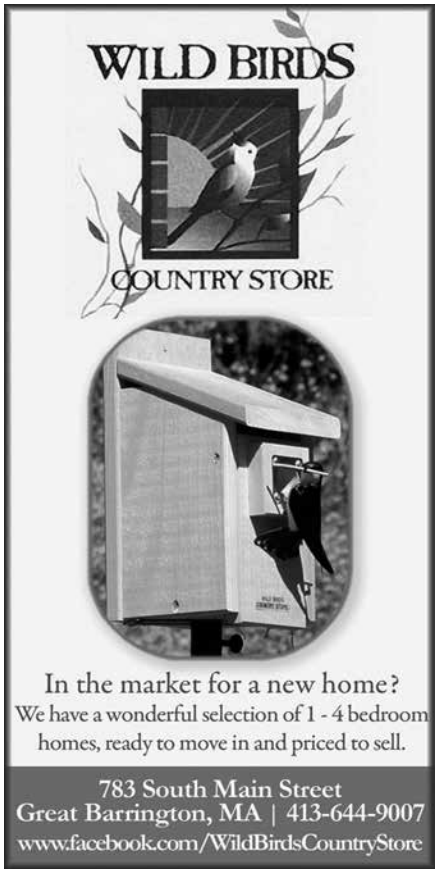
At the Beach*, by Dorene Beller*

Dorene Beller Exhibition

Monterey resident Dorene Beller will have a solo show of paintings and collages at TD Bank in Great Barrington from December 1 through December 31.

Using gouache, acrylics, and a collection of vintage materials, Dorene's pictures are primarily inspired by old photos and recreate settings that viewers may have shared with their own relatives and friends.

This show is part of an ongoing program between the Housatonic Valley Art League and TD Bank, 271 Main Street, in Great Barrington.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Sandisfield Arts Center
A Very Active Program

The building that now houses the Sandisfield Arts Center was a Baptist church for the first eighty years of its life. There followed seventy-five years when it was an orthodox synagogue. In 1995 it became a community arts center.

The small-town, grass-roots commitment that gave birth to the Sandisfield Arts Center in 1995 is still present today, as the organization depends almost entirely on volunteers. These dedicated folks meet, administer, collate, clean, bake, paint, host, donate, and perform their way through tough economic times, long, cold winters, and all the challenges that small, non-profit arts organizations face on a daily basis.

Over the past two or three years the center has scheduled some thirty-plus events in its eight-month season, ranging from forums on diverse subjects to workshops, art exhibits in the gallery, and a wide variety of performances. This past season, for example, there were seven concerts, four stage performances (centered around its own community theatre group, the Sandisfield Players), six forums and lectures, three workshops, and seven gallery exhibitions. All of this organized and run by volunteers.

It is not hard to see that at this point there is need for a part-time paid person as a managing director, if we're going to continue offering such a diverse and interesting range of programing. If anyone is interested, please contact info@sandisfieldartscenter.org

—Susie Crofut
Co-President, Sandisfield Arts Center

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A Christmas Partridge

"And a partridge in a pear tree" is a memorable refrain from the holiday carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas," first published in English in 1780 as a children's game. Each verse had to be recited verbatim in proper sequence until the first mistake prompted the penalty of having to give a kiss or piece of candy to other players. With each successive verse, the partridge is joined by other gifts that include no less than five varieties of fowl—calling birds, French hens, turtle doves, geese, and swans—each exulted as a royal gift of Elizabethan courtyard pageantry.

The partridge's real name is ruffed grouse for the ruff of feathers around its neck. (See the drawing on page 1.) The ruffed grouse is especially revered as a woodland drummer in spring. Like Chaucer's barnyard rooster, Chanticleer, that crows and beats its wings at dawn, the partridge traps air against its chest, with twenty or more wing beats per second, in a feathery tattoo, to attract females to join him in the ritual of regeneration.

As a ground-nesting species, the subsequent hatch of chicks are imprinted with earthly designs to camouflage them with the flora under their feet, such as mossy wood chips and mushroom rings on a log (mimicked by tail bands). As they grow into adulthood, their plumage morphs into either one of two color phases: gray to blend with the northern conifer habitat, or a reddish tint to go with clay soil countryside further to the south.

As planetary motions wipe the winter landscape of color, the grouse's northern cousin the ptarmigan turns from brown to entirely white. Like the partridge, it also grows comb like bristles on their feet to act as snow shoes. Both species seek shelter from a coming storm by diving deep into a snow bank to be cozy and warm during the night, like an Eskimo in an igloo.

At dusk during the twelve days of Christmas, when their normal food supply is buried under a blanket of ice, I have seen partridge climbing like parrots among bare branches of apple and pear trees in orchards near my house to fill their crops with buds formed in the summer and fall. Thus the narrative of the song somehow stems from observation of the season.

Yuletide singing of this carol might be said to orchestrate with the music of the spheres in the heavens, as a bright and shining star in the sky over Bethlehem guided the Magi, with gifts of frankincense and muir, to celebrate the coming of the Lord. May this contribution of article and drawing be a rich gift to you as a reader, and a wish my friends in Monterey for a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

—George B. Emmons

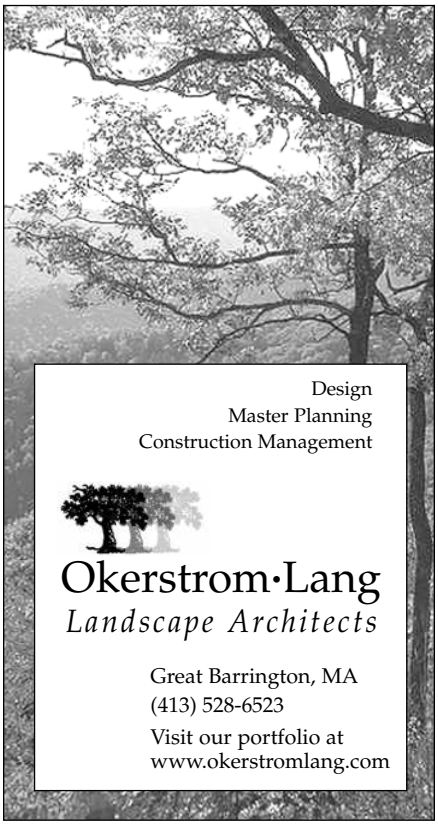
November 2016 Contributors

Thanksgiving Day is past now, and the days feel like they're quickly getting shorter as we approach the winter solstice.

We extend our thanks to everyone involved in producing this monthly chronicle of life in Monterey, and hope you have a most enjoyable holiday season.

Thank you to these folks for their contributions.

Richard Skolnik
Robert Hudak
Lonnie Solomon
Kenneth Kahn



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Still Comes From Our Creator

If minds could breath
and hearts had vision
and nostrils used for thinking
These senses only truth perceive
Could keep us then from shrinking.

The order of these senses changed
Bring learning only greater
Refreshing minds with truths true love
Still comes from our Creator.

With nostrils having thoughts that think
Can give us clear perception
And keep us from that putrid path
Mind, heart, and nose direction.

With hearts new vision
Errors would cease
Respecting one another
The earth would then rotate in peace
Mankind would bless each other.

—Margaret E. Vorck

between the lines
a community exhibition
Dec. 2, 2016 - Jan. 14, 2017
Reception: Saturday, Dec. 3, 6-7:30pm
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Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library

The Accountant

The accountant sits
his numbers behind him
like a wall
and dreams
probably about
skyrocketing
off the table.

But in actuality
the accountant sits
and works
with his numbers
that are on the paper
in front of him.

He thinks
and the numbers
rocket inside
his head
and he writes
the numbers as
they appear

in little boxes on the page
those tight little boxes
that house the soft
perfect figures that
the accountant
is proud of

The accountant
like the skyrocket
prefers to reach
the blue ceiling
where there
are no numbers
but white clouds
that he calls
only numbness

The accountant
he thinks
numbness is like
us all or
dreams are like
part of us
longing for the
numbness
the numbness.

—Mark Simmons

The Accountant can be found
"between the lines" in the Knox Gallery.

Town Meeting Voting

Editor's Note: In the November issue there was an inaccurate description of a "unanimous" vote as including simple majorities. This came out of an inquiry to the town clerk about a vote at the recent special town meeting that had been described as "unanimous with one no vote." As this information came directly from the clerk, I presumed that in the context of the meeting, "unanimous" had a different implication from its customary usage. To correct this mistake, Mark Makuc, Monterey's town moderator, offered to write an article about voting at town meetings.

The town moderator is an elected position that has the responsibility of making sure your town meetings happen in an organized and fair manner. Town meeting goes back centuries, and while there are some customs and practices that seem so old they make no sense, a New England town meeting has proven itself to be flexible, and has adapted to a changing world. In the beginning the law required citizens of the town to attend. That is no longer the case, but it is your right, if you are a registered voter, to attend, discuss, and participate in the decision making process. Once the warrant, which warns the voters about the issues, has been posted, a quorum is gathered, and the meeting is opened, then the town as a whole can discuss and make decisions.

The first ingredient of the town meeting is the select board's warrant. It is this elected board's responsibility to prepare the warrant. There are issues, such as the budget, that need to be decided upon every year, and then there are issues that simply need to be dealt with by the town whether once or periodically. In addition, there are issues that citizens can petition the meeting to deal with. Massachusetts General Law (MGL) deals specifically with the powers of the meeting and how decisions are made. Some towns also have their own bylaws. Many of the bylaws have prescribed margins by which the town must vote for a motion to pass, and some of them even have prescribed methods of voting, stipulating, for example, that a vote to create a committee needs to be on a secret ballot.

There are also procedural votes. Motions like "calling the question" and "tabling" are among the more common ones used. Those motions come from parliamentary procedure and usually resemble what you might find in a legislative body. It is important to note, however, that town meeting does not have sessions of duration similar to many of those bodies. Most town meetings are annual. Some towns have meetings that continue for several nights, but once concluded, the "session" is over. So while these procedural motions may be in *Robert's Rules of Order*, the way in which a town meeting uses them may not be exactly the same as parliament. *Robert's Rules* is simply a guideline. The Monterey Library has a book published by the Moderators' Association titled *Town Meeting Time,* which explains the basics of how a meeting can be run.

Town meeting has a long history of voice votes. There is a reason for this. Many towns still only have one annual town meeting and few if any special meetings, and this makes written ballots problematic. A ballot would have to be prepared in advance, not allowing for the flexibility to amend articles during the meeting. Amendments can be worked out on the floor of the meeting in order to help refine an article. Of course there are limits on amendments as well. Voice votes are generally the first course of action of any matter, whether it be the article itself or a procedural question, because a voice vote can be quickly taken. If there is a specific bylaw or Massachusetts General Law that calls for a secret ballot, the voting skips right to that. There are many meetings where there are no secret ballots.

The moderator's role, after guiding any discussion, is to poll the meeting to reach a decision. In most cases a simple majority vote by registered voters is sufficient to direct the legal action taken by the Town. One way or another, the majority rules. The moderator has the power to decide the vote. One law from

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MGL says that if seven voters question the moderator's decision, there will be a count. I have often anticipated this and called for a hand count if there is any question. The numbers show more closely how the meeting feels. Over the years Monterey has developed a system whereby when a registered voter checks into the meeting, they are handed a colored index card. Instead of counting hands, the clerk and the moderator can count cards. There is an element of trust in that no one is checking the voter rolls for individual votes. Each voter will only vote once and will not allow someone else to use their card. Cards are not transferrable. The last method of voting is by secret ballot whereby the clerk has simple yes-and-no slips of paper that are easily ripped in half. You put either the yes or the no half into the ballot box (the other option is thrown out). It then takes volunteers some time to count the vote while the meeting usually moves on to the next item. Ultimately the moderator has the responsibility of declaring the result of the vote. In a court of law, the moderator's decision will win unless there is a procedural issue with the vote.

Once a vote is recorded by the clerk and the meeting is over, the town clerk is responsible for sending the results to the Commonwealth to confirm. The moderator has nothing to do with this step. The state may conclude that certain money votes need two-thirds majority, or that a zoning vote had the required two-thirds majority and the required hearing in advance of the town meeting. Citizens's petitions can be particularly tricky. For instance there was an article to ban jet skis on Lake Garfield some years ago. The meeting so voted, but the state rejected it for reasons I can't remember. If you want to submit a citizen's petition you really need to research how to write it legally and whether it is even possible for a town meeting to take that type of an action. We have had many articles over the years (one for example had to deal with transporting nuclear waste), which, in the end, resulted in nothing more than a non-binding resolution. Citizens's petitions allow a meeting to take actions that the select board won't sponsor. It is important that these petitions be clearly written to avoid confusion about intent, since town meeting is a legal meeting. Do your research.

I was elected moderator in 1984. I had no idea what I was doing. I have had to learn by experience. Most importantly I learned early on that there are laws that need to be followed exactly, such as a two-thirds vote to amend zoning bylaws, and that there are procedures that are not so exact, such as allowing non-registered voters to speak. I have always tried to let the meeting decide how it should proceed. If you are a resident of Monterey you need to be registered to vote, but when someone who is younger than eighteen or a second-home owner would like to comment or ask a question, I have generally let them speak. My belief has always been that I should make your town meeting one in which everyone feels comfortable expressing their opinion and voting as they wish. My hope is that after the meeting is over, everyone will continue to respect each other as fellow townspeople even if they are not in agreement.

I would like to clarify a definition of voting that was incorrectly described in the last issue of the *Monterey News.* "Unanimous" means nothing more or less than that everyone voted on one side or the other. All yes or all no. If I hear a no, it is not unanimous. You, as voters, have a right to express yourselves. I often admire the single "No" and the courage it takes after everyone else votes yes. Most votes do not require more than a majority, so a simple declaration that a motion has passed after a voice vote is enough to make the passage legally binding. Those votes that require two-thirds, or, in the case of paying a bill from a previous year, nine-tenths, are much more difficult to declare. The attorney general is often looking for specific numbers for those votes. When Monterey votes on these issues, I pay particular attention. If the vote is unanimous, clearly the criteria has been met. If there is a single no, but the vote is overwhelming, I will also declare a winner. But if there are more no votes, then I request a count. It would not be right to go with a voice vote when there is question. To sum up, the moderator has the power to declare a vote unanimous. This has implications if there is a fixed percentage required to pass a motion. If there is not unanimity, I also have the power to declare a vote, but if it is other than a simple majority, I will request that the votes will be counted.

I hope this clarifies some of how a town meeting is conducted. There are certainly times when procedures are confusing, but rest assured after all my years I have found times where I still turn to the town counsel and ultimately to you, as the town meeting, to decide on a fair course of action and a decision that accurately reflects the people who make up the meeting. The issues we take up are no less complex than the world we live in, and the decisions we make are important. The next time you come to town meeting it is my hope you feel that you have been a part of a decision-making process that is civil, fair, and represents the sentiments of the town of Monterey. Most importantly, I hope you feel you can freely speak if you so choose, vote your conscience, and be counted.

—Mark Makuc
Town Moderator

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Redbellies

"Rare to very uncommon and local, but increasing, resident."

Twenty-three years ago the Massachusetts Audubon Society published a book, *Birds of Massachusetts*, with dates and details on the occurrence of 460 species of birds in the state. If you think you might have seen an albatross off Cape Cod, for instance, you can look this up and find you are not alone in thinking this. By 1993 there had been three sightings of the black-browed albatross and two of the yellow-nosed albatross. I used the book recently to see if it were wildly possible that I'd seen a western tanager here. Turns out it was, it is, and this book says they are among the more "frequent vagrants" to Massachusetts from western North America.

We all have our usual suspects, birds we think of as "common pals." I think of chickadees, blue jays, goldfinches, crows, and a host of others. I think of several kinds of woodpeckers: downy, hairy, pileated, and then the yellow-bellied sapsuckers and flickers. Call them what you like, to me they are family, or familiar.

Maybe you get frequent visitors, and then one day realize they feel like family. This experience must vary from place to place, within Monterey. To me, bears are rare visitors and moose have never even dropped by. To some of my neighbors, bears have become such regular characters that they feel like old news, maybe even family.

When this book of Massachusetts birds came out in 1993, the red-bellied woodpeckers were never seen by us in this part of Monterey. We did hear that folks down south in Sheffield were seeing them more and more. The book says that before 1955 the redbellies were considered "rare vagrants," like the albatrosses. If a new edition of the book were to come out, I bet the redbellies would get a new descriptor, maybe even "familiar."

This past month we stocked the feeder, hung the suet, and right away chickadees and titmice hit the café. There were downy and hairy woodpeckers, too, the trusty bird family right out the kitchen window. Every day more old pals showed up, and then one day, the glorious and rather new pal—a red-bellied woodpecker.

This was a female, with her grey under- plumage, black-and-white barred back and wings, and that scarlet nape or back of the neck. She came right to the feeder and picked up seeds in her big business-like bill. She flew off and then came back to grab onto the tall post that holds our platform feeder. She climbed straight up under the center where there is a lag bolt holding the feeder to the pole. Our feeder has stood out there shaking in the wind and weather so long, with all those patrons landing and taking off, that the hole has gotten enlarged and some seeds trickle down through it beside the bolt. Woodpeckers are designed for vertical perching on tree trunks, so they get up under our feeder and take the seeds that trickle down the bolt-hole.

I was thrilled to see her, of course. It seems only yesterday that I was envying the Sheffield folks and only knew this bird myself from pictures in a book. Now that she comes here, I am excited when she first shows up, and look forward to seeing more of her.

The day after her arrival, I sat by the top of the garden and watched the sun come twinkling up. Four ravens flew croaking up the brook valley. Chickadees and titmice arrived in the apple tree near where I sat. They fluttered and foraged, talking to each other: dee-dee, dee-dee. I don't think they were talking to me, but maybe. I stood up and headed out past the compost bins for a walk.

There by one of the bins I saw a drift of feathers on the ground, a new one. These had not been there the day before, and there were several sorts of feathers, too many for this to be an accidental loss or molt. There were fluffy grey ones, the kind that keep a bird warm, and long sturdy black and white ones, that keep a bird in the air. I knew it was a woodpecker by the look of these primaries and secondaries, the wing feathers. I thought maybe it could be a hairy woodpecker, by the size, but there was something broader, bolder, more contrasty about them. So I carefully folded a few into my little notebook and took them to the house, to the field guides.

After more than forty years of partnership with me, Joe has hit upon a sure gift every birthday and Christmas: yet another field guide. So I have the one to feathers. I also have guides to bark, skulls, caterpillars, and even one called *Field Guide*, a guide to fields, of course, which is handmade and the only copy in existence so far.

Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

On December 21 hear:
Nanette Hucknall

Monterey resident and author with her new book,
How to Lwive from Your Heart

See the community potluck supper article on page 7.

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I looked at the pages of woodpecker feathers from several species, noticing the differences among many similar black-and-white wing feathers. As I sat at the kitchen table, with the usual suspects zooming in and out of the feeder right outside the window, I knew there was a good chance I would not see that lady redbelly again. I hoped I would, but it's been a week now. The feathers are a wonder. None of the other local woodpeckers have white tips on their wing feathers, and I still say there is something even clearer, something that feels more pure, about these from the redbelly than any I've picked up over the years from the hairies or downies.

So she died, my new familiar. We crossed paths, and then she crossed over, gone to feed a hawk, we think. I have a bright memory of her, a vision of those few seconds she was at our feeder. I have a few of her feathers, and my greater understanding now of one of the ways she was a redbelly and only a redbelly, a member of the species *Melanerpes carolinus*. She had a red belly, too, though most people never see this. It is a rosy patch right between the legs, and there are some good photos that show it. Mostly, though, these birds grab up tight against a vertical perch like a pole or tree trunk, hanging on with sharp claws and bracing with a strong stiff tail. That belly is flat against the trunk, impossible to see.

I miss that lady redbelly, in some detail. Thanks to this, I'll always have her.

—Bonner McAllester

Bidwell House Restoration Campaign Update

Thanks to generous members of the Monterey and Tyringham community, the museum had a great kick-off to the public campaign for funding the restoration of the 1760s house. Sixty-eight generous donors from Monterey and Tyringham have donated $15,841 so far toward the $100,000 matching grant from the Jane and Jack Fitzpatrick Trust. Thanks to the Fitzpatrick Trust match, each dollar donated to the campaign is doubled.

"I am so grateful to Montereyans for stepping up and taking care of the treasured historic house," noted Barbara Palmer, executive director of the museum. "Each gift helps the museum reach the funding necessary for securing the structure and improving accessibility. We had a great first month, and year-end donations to the campaign will continue to count toward matching the Fitzpatrick Trust's incredible gift."

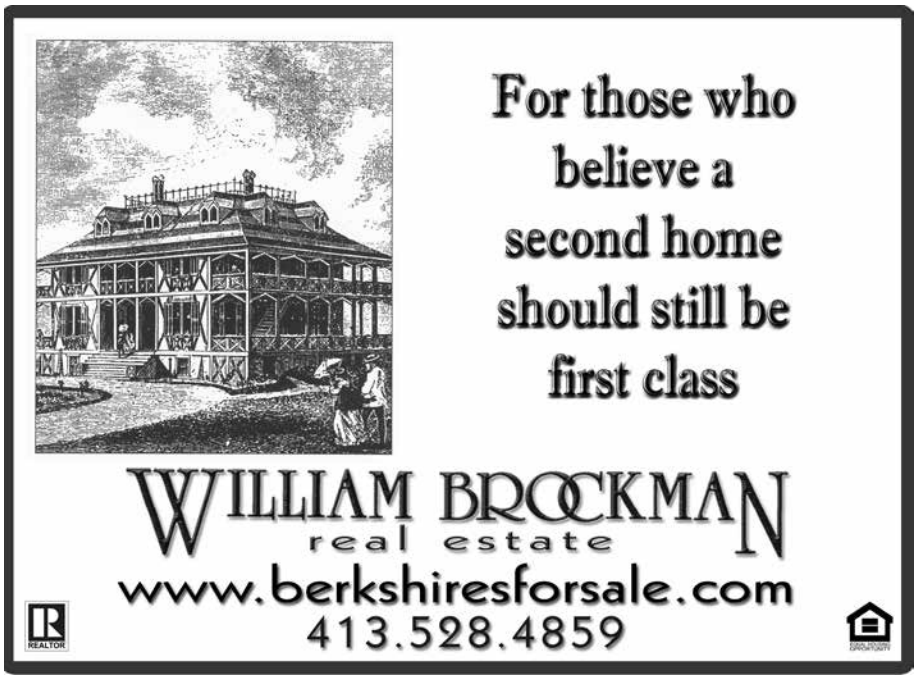
In the meantime, volunteers, board members, and staff are planning next summer's events and programs. Suggestions are very welcome. Please call the museum at 528-6888, or email bidwellhouse@gmail.com with your ideas for speakers, workshops, or other events. Would you like to join the program committee? Give a call and come to the meeting on Friday, December 9, at 3 p.m., at the museum.

Barbara Palmer

Rob Hoogs, Rick Wilcox, Ruth Green, Frank and Julie Kern, and Penny tidied the Bidwell gardens for winter.

Thank you to the community members who put gardens and trails "to bed" (above). And a big thank you to all who celebrated our "Colonial Holiday of Thanksgiving" to support the museum's winter operating expenses. The party was great fun, thanks to organizers JoAnn Bell McTavish, Linnea Grealish, Kathryn Roberts, Nancy Jones, hosts Walter and Mary Jo Engels, and interns Ella Carlson, Marya Makuc, and Justin Makuc. Thank you, Scott Cole and the Monterey General Store, for the gift basket donation.

If you are able to make a year-end gift, please consider a contribution to the Bidwell House Museum Restoration. Donations gratefully accepted by mail at PO Box 537, Monterey, or via the museum's website: bidwellhousemuseum.org. Your dollars will be matched one-to-one!



From the Meetinghouse
Solstice Flute Song

Let your light shine! Let your song sound! Bring it on!

It's September 2016. We're visiting our sister-friend, Diane, on the Schoodic Peninsula, Maine. Diane mentions that Hawk Henries is performing nearby the next afternoon. He's a member of the Nipmunk tribe, a flute player who makes the flutes he plays. He's a wonderful storyteller, too.

We get to the library early enough to fill the second-to-last parking space. Inside, the hum of anticipation simmers just below audible. It stitches everyone in the small community room together. Bonsai chooses seats for us in the first row. This puts me about six feet from Hawk, three feet from the array of flutes he places on a ceremonial cloth on the floor.

The room fills. Hawk ignites then quickly extinguishes a flame. The fragrance of sage smoke rises, does its ritual cleansing work, dissipates. He looks up, smiles, greets us, tells a few stories.

When he picks up one of his flutes, it's clear we're watching someone greet a friend. He holds it respectfully in his hands

Mary Kate Jordan

for a moment, then wakens it with a short breath. He speaks with us a bit more—this is genuine dialogue, not prepared script—then begins to play. The sounds that fill the room have wings.

The afternoon continues like this, delightful, sometimes deep, sometimes silly. He tells us how he got his parents to give him his first flute. It took a year to convince them, he says. Then, to the seven-year-old boy sitting next to me he adds, "Trust me, whining works." We all laugh, and the man and boy nod in understanding.

Then Hawk picks up the fifth or sixth flute of this afternoon. He looks out at us.

"This one's about two hundred years old," he says soberly. "It was mostly crushed when it was given to me. The person who found it said it should probably go to a museum for people to see it. I thought, 'No, it's a flute. People should hear it', so I started to rebuild it. I used little bits of wood and beeswax and, after a long time, it came back together."

Hawk puts the flute to his lips, wakes it with a breath. He begins to play, and the next breath I inhale is intoxicating. The air smells like sun-warmed honey.

The fragrance grows stronger, clearer, brighter with each note Hawk plays. With each breath, the air carries the perfume into my body. Then the song is over, but that honey is a part of me now. No longer desperate hope, no spun-sugar escapist fantasy, it's experience now. There's honey in the tree of life.

To each of you, a reminder in this month of winter darkness, that this is also the month when we start our return trip toward longer daylight. As we move forward, let's remember we're stronger together and we need each other. Let your light shine. Let your song sound. There's honey in the tree of life. We can find it together.

—Mary Kate Jordan

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Wildlife Report
Late October and November

On the last day of October, Halloween, I heard a chickadee overhead in a lilac saying "dee-dee, dee-dee," but when I looked up, there was no chickadee! There was only a titmouse, who said it again. Maybe a chickadee dressed up as a titmouse, I thought.

Early in November, Dianna Downing wrote in about a marvelous robin at her place. It had "lots of white on its breast, some white on its head, and some pale brown belly stripes as well. It was definitely a robin—moved like one, black feathers like one, orange lower breast, robin's bill and behavior." This was a mutant robin, with albinism. Anyone interested can Google them up and see remarkable photos.

Don Pierce

In the middle of the month, Don Pierce sent in a photo showing the handiwork of beavers at his place on Lake Buel. Also about this time, Tiegen and Maddox Stucker, of Blue Hill Road, reported seeing a dozen turkeys, a Cooper's hawk, a red-bellied woodpecker, a pheasant, and some blue jays in their yard and woods. They also saw two porcupines, one of which was dead and had lots of maggots inside. A little farther afield, Tiegen and Maddox saw a red-shouldered hawk in Sheffield and a red fox in Sandisfield.

Ed Salsitz and Arrie Setiawati stopped by with a photo they'd taken at their place on Beartown Mountain Road. This was a barred owl, in broad daylight, perched up high in a tree.

Coyotes are all about. Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen went for a walk past the intersection of Wellman Road and New Marlboro Road. In a field there, they saw "a coyote lying in the grass in a brightly lit patch of sunlight." Here on East Hupi, Joe Baker heard a coyote chorus in mid-November, and Steve Snyder writes that they have been singing over by Gould Farm, too. Besides this, Steve has noted all the following animals around the place in the last month: mice in his cabin, a raven at the gravel pit, a barred owl perched and swiveling its head, a grey fox after dark, an opossum taking shelter under a cabin porch, and several buck deer with antlers. This included one that was taken by a bow hunter. Steve says three different colors of squirrels—red, black, and grey—have been busy along the roadsides, but the chipmunks seem to have gone to bed, now. There's been an otter in Rawson Brook, and an osprey on Lake Garfield, also mergansers and wood ducks. Steve has seen many wild turkeys, a pileated woodpecker flying from tree to tree, and blackbirds gathering in the trees "with much excited chatter and excited talk about Florida."

There have also been porcupine sightings at Gould Farm, and bears. Last year at this time, the latest bear report came on Thanksgiving evening, from up on Cronk Road. If you want to be careful not to attract bears, or birds, to your place, better not set up your feeders just yet. We've got ours going, but we never see any bears here, just our seventy-pound dog, Russell, with the deep proprietary voice, who speaks to bears about keeping their distance.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385 bonnermca@gmail.com

Newspapers
https://www.newspapers.com/image/30784512

The Berkshire Eagle (Pittsfield, Massachusetts) · Wed, Feb 6, 1946 · Page 20
Downloaded on Nov 12, 2016

Delmar Tryon, Monterey 'Shot' By Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Unit

(From Monday's Eagle)

GREAT BARRINGTON — Most any day now you may be able to see Delmar Tryon of Monterey in motion pictures in addition to a scene on Monterey's Main Street.

Saturday a unit of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer with Jack Waters as director, arrived in Monterey to "shoot the scene." Besides the snow covered landscape Delmar Tryon was included as he drove his farm team down the street.

The scene is reported to be a feature for the opening of another picture, "You Were There," starring Katharine Hepburn and Robert Taylor. The Monterey portion must be passed for approval by the studio at Hollywood.

Besides director Waters, others in the unit were Cameraman Jack Smith and business manager John Gertsman. The unit departed for Lakeville, Conn., after the Monterey visit. Director Waters visited Monterey earlier in the week as he searched this section for the scene.

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Berkshire historian Bernie Drew came across this item from the February 6, 1946, issue of the Berkshire Eagle *and thought that perhaps folks in Monterey might enjoy reading it.*

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Updates from The Lake Garfield Working Group

The Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) met for the third time on November 14 to continue work assessing strategies to better manage and sustain the health of the Lake Garfield watershed. The meeting opened with a brief discussion of what scientific data had been collected about the lake, the earliest of which dates back to an aquatic vegetation survey conducted by the Massachusetts Division of Water Pollution (MDWPC) in 1976, and most recently includes a survey conducted in 2016 by Stockman Associates, LLC. This discussion and further examination was led by guest presenter Emily Stockman, a wetland scientist from Stockman Associates.

Eurasian Milfoil: A Threat to Lake Biodiversity

Stockman Associates, LLC, was employed by the Friends of Lake Garfield to conduct the most recent lake survey earlier this year. Stockman began its research by examining the previous surveys conducted by the MDWPC and later by Water Resource Services, Inc. (WRS) in 2015. After conducting a full lake survey, Stockman was able to gauge variation in plant growth using data and GPS coordinates from these previous surveys. Though Stockman's survey confirmed a rich and diverse ecosystem of many native plant species, it also confirmed what appears to be a spread of the invasive plant Eurasion milfoil (E. milfoil). This finding identifies E. milfoil as a potential threat to the plant diversity of the lake ecosystem. This threat is due to the tendency of this aggressive-invasive species to establish itself as a monoculture in its habitat when left to thrive. According to Stockman, growth of the E. milfoil population is not of significant concern at depths greater than twenty feet; the plant requires sunlight to grow and is decreasingly present at depths greater than twelve feet.

Incomplete data in early surveys—namely the lack of speciation (specificity) of milfoil plants—makes it difficult to pinpoint when E. milfoil was first introduced into the lake, though its presence was confirmed by a 2015 survey conducted by WRS.

In both the 2015 WRS survey and the 2016 Stockman survey, plant prevalence is measured in plant density. Data collected represents estimated number of plants visible from the deck of a boat positioned at a GPS located point. Stockman's survey compares data from 2015 and 2016 and represents changes in density at various locations throughout the lake.

The 2016 survey observed a growth in the E. milfoil, particularly around the shallow edge of the lake, also known as the littoral zone. Even though a drawdown of the lake was conducted in the previous winter, mild winter temperatures may have been one factor in the lack of mitigation of the plant in the littoral zone from 2015 to 2016.

The full survey, including maps of E. milfoil density throughout the lake, is available on LakeGarfieldMA.com

Possible Remediation Approaches

After identifying and establishing E. milfoil as a significant threat to the environmental health of the lake ecosystem, Emily Stockman presented Stockman Associates's assessment of management strategies for control of the invasive species. Potential remediation strategies include mechanical techniques, chemical techniques, and biological treatments. Stockman also addressed the potential consequences of a "no action" strategy on the E. milfoil population. Mechanical techniques that were briefly discussed included the use of benthic (bottom) barriers, suction dredging, rotovation, hand removal and lake drawdown; chemical techniques included the use of Triclopr, an EPA-approved growth hormone that targets milfoil selectively; and biological treatments discussed included the introduction of grass carp and/or the milfoil weevil, the former of which, however, is prohibited from stocking in Massachusetts lakes.

Regarding a "no action" approach, Stockman writes, "Based on the review of previous E. milfoil surveys performed... the population of this invasive species is increasing... and given [its] aggressive nature, a "no action" strategy will result in the continued expansion of populations."

Ultimately, Stockman posited that ongoing management of E. milfoil will likely require multiple techniques and strategies, potentially including but not limited to those listed above. She emphasized that it is highly unlikely that the plant will ever be "eradicated" from the lake. The LGWG intends to further examine the feasibility of these potential remediation strategies for addressing the spread of E. milfoil in Lake Garfield.

Lake Garfield Drawdown

Among the issues identified at the November 14 meeting was the town's impending

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decision on the extent of this year's Lake Garfield winter drawdown. An important consideration in this matter included water access for the fire department post-drawdown. In recognition of the drought, as well as the benefits of the drawdown in mitigating weed growth and ice damage, a recommendation was forwarded to the select board as follows:

"While the Lake Garfield Working Group defers to the recommendations of the fire department regarding the extent of the 2016 drawdown, it recommends that a drawdown be performed to help mitigate Eurasian milfoil and ice damage to the shoreline."

At a meeting held on November 16, and at the recommendation of the fire chief, the select board determined that the lake will indeed be drawn down this season.

Next Steps

This article is presented by the Lake Garfield Working Group as a part of a series exploring various methodologies used in the abatement of invasive aquatic plant species and the continued work being done by the group in assessing the health of the Lake Garfield watershed. The LGWG is a Town of Monterey entity charged by the select board with assessing and developing strategies to maintain the health of the Lake Garfield watershed. Meetings of the LGWG are open to the public and are held at the town hall. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 12, at 7 p.m.

—Eric Danforth
Member, Lake Garfield Working Group

In Rememberance
Edward Epstein

Edward Epstein, husband of Phyllis, the love of his life for fifty-eight years, the much-loved and respected father of Sheryl (Jonathan) of Ridgefield, CT, Jeff (Gorana) of Miami, FL, and Brian (Elizabeth) of Schenectady, NY, and grandfather/papa of Louisa, Madeline, Caleb, Ethan, Mallory, Anabel, Quincy, and Lee, passed away peacefully and with integrity, surrounded by his family, from pancreatic cancer in the Berkshires on Sunday, October 30.

Born on March 29, 1936, to Mary and Sam Epstein, and a graduate of the Bronx High School of Science and Hunter College, Ed received his MBA from Columbia University. In his early fifties, out of a desire for a new intellectual challenge, he earned his law degree from Touro College and passed the New York Bar exam.

Ed started his professional career working for J. Walter Thompson, then spent the majority of his life at the helm of the market research firm Edward Epstein and Associates, located in New York.

He also served in the Air Force Reserves in the 1960s.

Ed was not only intellectually sharp, but loved to laugh and joke around, and was immediately liked by so many people for his easy-going attitude, the playful glint in his eye, and his genuine caring for others.

While all other passions paled in comparison to his love of his family and in particular Phyllis, Ed was an avid reader of novels, especially Philip Roth, and of newspapers and magazines. He relished his Lagavulin scotch, and loved the friendships he made through hiking with the Monday Mountain Boys, exercising with the Lunch and Crunch Bunch, and golf that he played in the Berkshires with the Sweater Bunch as well as in Boca West.

Together with Phyllis and dog Pip, Ed bravely fought his cancer with integrity and a scientific approach, much as he lived his eighty years of life.

He will be missed dearly.

Services were held at Hevreh of Southern Berkshire in Great Barrington on November 1, 2016. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230, or online at www.pancan.org.

To send remembrances to his family please go to FinnertyandStevens.com.

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Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc.

www.MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Monday, December 5 and 19, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Chair Yoga: Tuesdays, 9 to 10 a.m.

Conservation Commission: Tuesday, December 13, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Monday, December 12, at 10 a.m.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, December 8, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, January 12, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, December 7, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursday, December 8, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Wednesdays, December 7, 14, 21, and 28, at 9 a.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Town Hall Closings

The Town Hall will be closed on Monday, December 26, for Christmas Day and Monday, January 2 for New Year's Day. Individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message.

Other News

Transfer Station

The new transfer station is in its final stages of completion. We are optimistic that the new location will be open by the end of December for all to use. We are planning to have an open house when the weather is nicer, so watch the Monterey News and the town website for more details.

Broadband is Coming

The select board and the Monterey Broadband Committee are requesting proposals for an internet provider this month. See page 4 for a more detailed report on the progress of the broadband committee.

We are encouraging all applicants, but the provider we choose must:

- offer a high level of service to at least 96% of properties in town,
- have an established, approved financial and service record,
- be transparent in dealing with the town and customers,
- work cooperatively with state agencies and available financing, and
- be ready to begin installation and development in early 2017.

The select board, working with the finance and broadband committees, is proceeding with extreme caution to ensure that we receive the best available service, at rates the taxpayers and residents can afford, as quickly as possible. Selection is a very complex process, and we cannot afford to rush into a hasty arrangement that might shortchange any of us. This is why we have not yet committed to a broadband provider. Thank you for your patience—we will continue to work on this exciting development.

—Kenn Basler, Chair
Steve Weisz and Carol Edelman
Monterey Select Board
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(carol@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:
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admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Fire Department (non-emergency): 528-3136
fire_service@montereyfire.org

Highway Department.: 528-1734
mhwy@verizon.net

Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency): 528-1443 x116,
Alternate emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

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Calendar

Every Tuesday:
Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., Monterey Town Hall. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.
Cards and Games club,12:30 to 3 p.m., at the town hall.

Friday, December 2: Knox Gallery, *between the lines,* winter community exhibition opens. See page 10.

Saturday, December 3: Knox Gallery, *between the lines*, winter community exhibition opening reception, 6 to 7:30 p.m. See page 10.

Friday, December 9: Hannah Fries's book launch and reading, 5:30 p.m., The Bookstore, Lenox. See page 7.

Thursday, December 8: Berkshire VNA blood pressure and wellness clinic, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Monday, December 12: Lake Garfield Working Group meeting, 7 p.m., at town hall. See pages 20 to 21.

Saturday, December 17: Lenox Contra Dance—Holiday Dance, 5 to 11 p.m. Live music by Cardinal Direction with calling by Will Mentor. Potluck supper from 6:45 to 8. All dances taught. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. LenoxContraDance.org.

Monday, December 19: Adult book group meets to discuss *Boys in the Boat,* by Daniel James Brown, 7:30 p.m., Monterey Library.

Tuesday, December 20: *Monterey News* deadline.

Wednesday, December 21: Community potluck dinner, 6 p.m., Nanette Hucknall speaking. Monterey Meetinghouse. See page 7.

Dave Gilmore

Transfer Station News

First and foremost, we hope everyone had a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Well, winter has arrived. One Saturday we were in shirt sleeves at the transfer station, and by the next day we were making snowmen. Welcome to the Berkshires.

By the time you read this the new swap shop will be on site (hopefully) and work will be going on installing lights, tables, and shelving to hold all the wonderful things that are always available. Books, games, and puzzles are big sellers this time of year. Christmas is coming, and you could do some high-value shopping right in town! We're still not sure as to when we will be opening the new transfer station. Almost everything is done, but now it is up to the new hauler to install their new compactors and get them operational. It still may be a while yet, but it will be well worth the wait.

—Beth, Ben, and Dave

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions or inquiries may also be sent to montereynews9@gmail.com or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email

White & Black & Grey

The joy of country living
Is a joy all of its own.
The lovely hills
the winding roads
all beauty close to home.

Wild animals
not often seen
They're freedom all around
They have their rules
They're caution keen
They hide not to be found

But there is one
who roams alone
It's white & black & grey
So keep on guard
Unless too late
You'll wind up in its spray.

—Margaret Vorck

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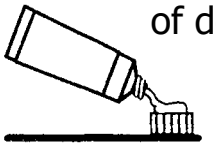

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Editor.....Stephen Moore
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Contributions from local artists this month:
George Emmons, p. 1; Bonner McAllester, p. 17.

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